



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

2006 - 2007 Hessen-Wisconsin Sister State International Teacher Seminar

Program Description

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and the Educational Ministry of the State of Hessen will jointly sponsor the eighth semi-annual Hessen-Wisconsin International Teacher Seminar. The seminar is held in Wisconsin, USA, and in the German State of Hessen, Wisconsin's Sister State.

Applicants

Twelve educators will be selected for participation in this seminar. Applications will be accepted from (a) teachers of German individually, or (b) from a team of a teacher of German with a teacher from another content area in the same school or school district. The twelve seminar participants from Wisconsin will be notified no later than February 28, 2006. Applicants usually come from the same school although schools in the same district can be considered. Both public and private schools may apply. The seminar is open to middle and high schools that offer German as a world language.

2006-2007 Theme: *The Changing Faces of Hessen and Wisconsin*

The seminar will bring together teachers with an interest in the changing faces of both sister states in the emerging global economy.

Teachers from Hessen will learn about Wisconsin's newest immigrants from Southeast Asia as well as the first people of this land, the Native Americans. They will also learn about Wisconsin's struggle to survive in the global economy by creating new jobs in bio- and nanotechnology while maintaining its strong bases in manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism.

Wisconsin teachers will learn about Europe's changing face within the thriving state of Hessen. The 2006 German Federal Elections clearly revealed tensions as Germany's economy is trying to adjust to challenges of the global market. It is becoming increasingly difficult to think of homogeneous national states and cultures.

The specific topics for the seminar weeks in Wisconsin and Hessen will be discussed with the selected participants, who will have an opportunity within the chosen theme to explore topics of interest to them and to create curriculum for their classrooms.

Seminar Costs

DPI contributes \$500/teacher/air ticket for the Chicago-Frankfurt portion of the flight. Teachers apply to their district for the balance of the air ticket or pay the balance themselves. Each teacher will request district support in the form of substitute teachers for two school days during school year 2005-2006, and two or three days in 2006-2007. Sign-off by the district administrator on the application constitutes district intention to support the teacher in the seminar. The participating teachers, their community, and the school district contribute to hosting expenses (primarily in-kind) for the visiting educators from Germany.

For the partner teachers coming from abroad, the Wisconsin districts will provide host families (room and board) for the six days the teachers are in the district. Districts pay admissions to local sites (e.g., museums), arrange local transportation, and pay for other minor hosting expenses incurred (e.g., welcome or farewell reception).




DPI pays for meals, hotels, and transportation for the guest teachers from Germany during the week when they are in Madison. In reciprocation, when the Wisconsin teachers are in Hessen, expenses for local German meals, hotels, home stays, and touring will be paid by local school districts, the German host families, and by the Hessisches Kultusministerium (state ministry of education).

Wisconsin teachers must work with their administrators to budget time for extra planning, curriculum development, and travel to DPI workshops, in addition to planning for travel abroad during the summer of 2007. During that 2007 summer, Wisconsin teachers cover their own incidental travel expenses (film, snacks, gifts) in Europe and they pay travel from their home city to and from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, where their round trip ticket begins.

Seminar Dates

The seminar is meant to be a rich, engaging professional development experience for the Wisconsin teachers, involving their students, colleagues, schools, and entire communities. The selection of participants commits them to dates over a period of 18 months, including Spring 2006 (notification and orientation), Fall 2006 hosting of German teaching partners, Summer 2007 travel to Germany, and Fall 2007 presentations to colleagues and communities following their return to Wisconsin.

2005 - 2006 School Year	2006 - 2007 School Year
Jan. 27, 2006 Application Deadline Feb. 28, 2006 Notification by DPI Mar. 31, 2006 Seminar Orientation in Madison	Mid Oct. 2006 Teachers from Hessen, Germany, visit (one week in schools) April 2007 Wisconsin Orientation for International Seminar in Germany June 2007 Teachers from Wisconsin travel to Hessen, Germany (Dates TBD, after end of school year)
	For applications, contact: Gerhard Fischer, Ph.D. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction PO Box 7841 Madison WI 53707-7841 USA TEL: (608) 267-9265 FAX: (608) 266-1965 gerhard.fischer@dpi.state.wi.us Download application from DPI website: http://www.dpi.wi.gov/cal/interntled.html